



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

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APRIL 2019 *Weller*

Father John Murtagh: Reflecting On The First 50 Years of Priesthood

By Christine Corbett Conklin

Looking back on his first 50 years of priesthood, Father John Murtagh observes that “every parish has been a blessing.” And indeed, this native of County Sligo, Ireland, with his dry sense of humor has found that “the people both sustain and challenge our Faith.”

Pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Moxee since 2004, Father Murtagh was ordained on June 15, 1969 at All Hallows Seminary in Dublin, Ireland, for the Diocese of Yakima. Previously, he had completed studies at De La Salle Training College in Waterford and University College in Dublin.

He recalls flying into Yakima for the first time in 1969, on a small plane originating at Boeing Field in Seattle.

In the passenger cabin, there were just three people: Father Murtagh, an Army soldier and a flight attendant.

“You fly in over Naches and you think, ‘Gosh, is there anybody who lives down there?’” he recalled. Then, slowly but surely, civilization appeared.

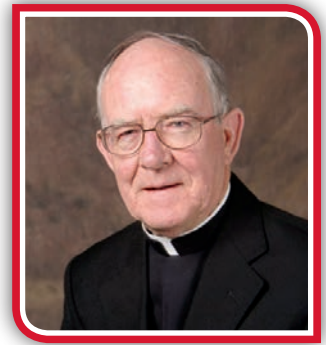
Father’s first assignment in the Diocese was as Assistant Pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Sunnyside. Following a one-year educational leave in Mexico, he came back to Sunnyside for a year. Future assignments would include serving as Administrator and Pastor of St. Henry’s Parish in Grand Coulee from 1977-78; and as Pastor of Christ the King in Richland from 1978-83, St. Andrew’s in Ellensburg from 1983-87 and Holy Family in Yakima from

1987-2003. He took a one-year sabbatical before coming to Holy Rosary.

Father Murtagh still returns for visits to County Sligo “fairly regularly,” he said.

“Life is good,” he suggests. “The flow of the Church year is very uplifting.”

Our thanks to Father Murtagh for his ongoing service to the Diocese of Yakima!



Father John Murtagh

Deacon Kurt Hadley Looks Forward to Priestly Ordination

By Christine Corbett Conklin



Deacon Kurt Hadley

Deacon Kurt Hadley scarcely has time to think about what’s happening tomorrow, much less next month. He’s finishing classes in

Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), Spiritual Direction, Theology of Reconciliation and Presiding at Mass at Mount Angel Seminary. He assists at Queen of Peace Parish in South Salem, serving Mass, sometimes preaching, and meeting with parish groups. He has choir practice to attend.

Yet, at 7 p.m., May 24, at St. Paul Cathedral, Hadley will be ordained a priest.

“I’m definitely looking forward to it,” he said in a phone interview from

Mount Angel. This ordination is a “lot less stressful” than his ordination as a transitional deacon last year, he observed. Away from his home parish at St. Joseph in Kennewick, there are fewer details to coordinate. And more importantly, “since my deacon ordination, I’m already committed,” he stated.

“You go into the seminary and you think you want to be a priest and that God wants that, but you really don’t know,” Hadley reflected. Now, however, after many years of studies in philosophy, theology and the other rubrics of priesthood, he believes that the path is clear.

The previous day, Hadley said that he had been practicing saying Mass.

“Whenever I’m studying the missal and trying to catch every detail, I think, ‘I’ll never be able to do this.’ But when I’m actually at the altar doing it, even as I make mistakes, it feels easy and

natural,” he said.

For his ordination Mass, Hadley hopes to use a chalice given to him by the late Monsignor Desmond Dillon, a special mentor in his life. (Before Monsignor Dillon, the chalice belonged to a brother of the late Archbishop Cornelius Power who was a priest.) He also has a chalice given to him by the Knights of Columbus which will be part of his traveling Mass kit.

Hadley’s fondest hope, upon becoming a priest, is to be the pastor of a parish, something he acknowledges will probably not happen for a number of years.

“I have loved every single parish assignment I’ve ever had,” he said.

In the meantime, Hadley asks for prayers, “that I will be a good priest for a long time,” he said.

Congratulations and many blessings to the newest priest-to-be of the Diocese of Yakima!

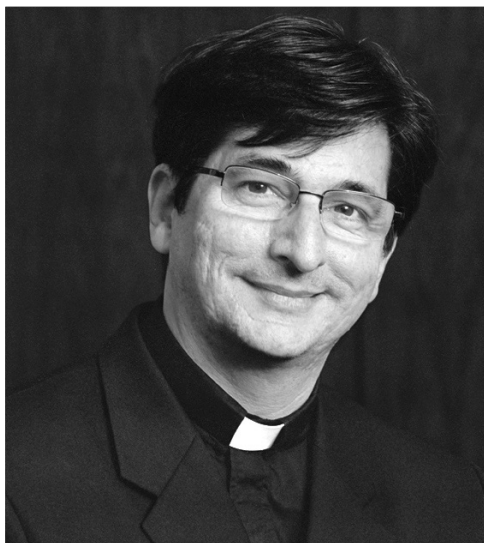
A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

I hope this issue finds you sharing with me the joy of those lives committed to Christ. It's Easter season and signs of His rising are all around us! I am especially grateful for the gift of a new priest being ordained soon: Deacon Kurt Hadley, who hails from St. Joseph Parish in Kennewick. I am grateful to his family and his fellow parishioners for nurturing his vocation here in Central Washington. I am also grateful to the Benedictine community of Mt. Angel Abbey where Deacon Kurt received almost all of his philosophy and theology studies as well as his formation for priestly ministry. I am also grateful to parishes such as Our Lady of the Desert in Mattawa that helped Deacon Kurt grow in his command of Spanish.

Paragraph 1000 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks of how the Eucharist is a foretaste of the Easter resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the gifts of bread and wine are presented to me at his ordination, I will turn to Deacon Kurt and ask him to accept these holy gifts from the people of God to be offered as an oblation. It's a reminder that even as we receive the gift of a new priest, we also remember that the gifts given to each and every priest are gifts from God given by the people of God who assemble for worship. There is so much for which to be grateful as we ordain Deacon Kurt Hadley as a priest for the Diocese of Yakima.

We also ordain soon Edgar Quiroga as a transitional deacon. "Transitional" refers to the fact that Edgar is also preparing for priestly ordination, which is still about a year away. Like many of our clergy from Mexico, Edgar comes from Colima. Many of you may recall that my predecessor, Bishop Carlos Sevilla, S.J., has relatives in Colima. Early in his time as bishop he developed a partner relationship with the Church in Colima. There is actually an educational room at the seminary in Colima named after him. Recently, we helped fund a van for the seminarians there. Edgar Quiroga represents the newest gift from the Church in Mexico



Bishop Joseph Tyson

– an important gift given that our diocese is inching towards being three-fourths Hispanic, with most Catholic parishioners now attending Mass in Spanish.

Yet perhaps one of the most important attributes of Edgar is his command of English through programs of immersion. He excels academically at Mundelein Seminary where all of his course work is in English. He is also on track for an advanced degree in liturgy so his early summers in priesthood will involve follow-up course work at Mundelein. Much of his pastoral formation comes from English-speaking parishes where he was able to polish his fine English skills. Just as Deacon Hadley was immersed in Spanish from his time in Mattawa, I am especially grateful to Monsignor Champoux and the parishioners at Christ the King Parish in Richland for providing an almost exclusively English-speaking learning environment for Edgar and other seminarians.

As bookends to these major stories about our newest ordinations, we remember the faithful servants of the Church. Father John Murtagh is celebrating 50 years of priesthood this June. As you will read, Fr. Murtagh came to Yakima as a missionary from Ireland. He has served in numerous parishes and handled dozens of parish projects over the years. He generously continues his service as an active pastor at Holy Rosary Parish in Moxee. You

will also note in this issue that Sr. Susan Madley is celebrating 50 years of religious profession. Sister Madley was a long-time professor of education at Central Washington University, putting her far away from her English roots and from any of the women religious from her own congregation. She chose to retire here and is active at St. Andrew Parish. I am grateful for her presence at several of our diocesan events including our annual Celebration of Faith dinner as well as one of our Bishop Founder Circle events. Sister Madley has seasoned her profession with the leaven of the gospel through her generous and life-long commitment to education.

Also noteworthy is Fr. Gary Norman, a senior priest of the diocese who is celebrating 25 years of priesthood. He lives now in the Diocese of Phoenix but we all can be grateful for the service he gave here for many years, as well as the special ministries in which he participates now as a senior priest.

The Diocese of Yakima is one of about 90 dioceses – nearly half – here in the United States designated as a mission diocese. This means that much of our funding for seminarians can come from sources such as the Home Mission Fund of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as well as the Chicago-based Catholic Extension Society. So many of our priestly and religious vocations come from outside Central Washington. The lives of these men and women

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If you have been abused or victimized by a member of the Catholic clergy, please believe in the possibility for hope and help and healing. We encourage you to come forward and speak out.

The Yakima Diocese has a sexual abuse hotline for those who wish to report some incident concerning that issue as regards a bishop, priest, deacon or diocesan employee or volunteer. (888) 276-4490

Father Gary Norman Celebrates 25th Anniversary of Ordination

As he prepares to celebrate the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, on June 24, Father Gary Norman is constantly on the move. Retired from active ministry with the Diocese of Yakima in 2012, Father Norman lives in Prescott, Arizona, serving with Food for the Poor and also assisting in Jamaica, as needed.

The former pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Waterville says that now, “the whole country is my parish.” Almost every weekend, he travels somewhere from New York to Texas to California, with many stops in between, to preach about Food for the Poor and assist local pastors by saying Mass, hearing confessions and even performing baptisms and officiating at funerals. Food for the Poor is one of the largest international relief and development organizations in the United States, serving “the poorest of the poor” in 17

countries in the Caribbean and Latin America.

For several years, Father Norman also has traveled to the Diocese of Kingston, Jamaica, to help out with Holy Week services, through connections made with Food for the Poor. In 2017 to early 2018, he even pitched in to help the people of San Pablo Parish in the Florida Keys after Hurricane Irma hit.

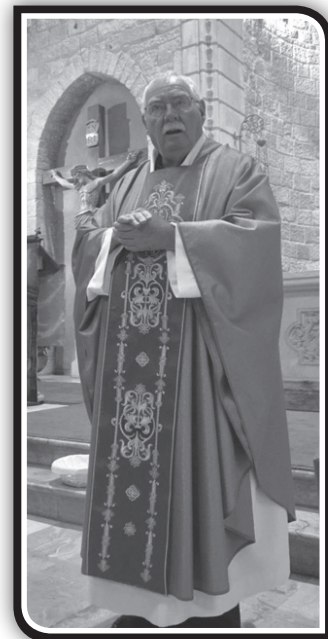
“I’ve always had a social justice dimension to me,” Father observed, “and I like to travel.” His current assignments allow him “to meet some people who are wanting to make the world a better place.”

Prior to serving as pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Father Norman was pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Ephrata and parochial vicar for Christ the King Parish in Richland and Holy Family Parish in Yakima. In addition, he was given permission by then-Bishop

Francis George to take on assignments as a “relief pitcher” (or chaplain) at sites from California to Montana, Nevada, Alaska and Washington.

To the people of the Diocese of Yakima, Father Norman says, “Love you, miss you, pray for you.”

Congratulations to Father Norman on his 25th anniversary!



Father Gary Norman visited Israel.

A Message from Bishop Tyson... *Continued from page 2*

exemplify a missionary spirit in a missionary diocese.

Yet a change is occurring in our

vocations to priesthood. For the first time in many years most of our men in formation come from Central

Washington, whether their family’s principal language is Spanish or English. This is a new moment for which we can be grateful. We are now fostering local vocations to the priesthood. These future priests – our Yakima


seminarians – will be visiting each of the parishes on a rotating basis this spring and early summer, sharing with you about the annual priest retirement and seminarian education collection.

May we be grateful to God for the many missionaries who serve in our diocese. May we be grateful, too, for the work of the Holy Spirit in raising vocations here in Central Washington! Let us pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

With every best wish and blessing,

Yours in Christ,


Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima




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NEWS

From Around the Diocese

Magnificat Classes Concluding

There's still time to enrich your knowledge of the Catholic Faith by attending the last in a series of 2018-19 Magnificat classes planned for May.

On May 4, at Holy Spirit Parish, 7409 West Clearwater Avenue in Kennewick, Father Michael Brzezowski will discuss "Mary and the Saints"; Bishop Joseph Tyson will explore "Christology"; and Father Daniel Steele will talk on "Spirituality."

Then, on May 11, the same speakers will deliver these talks at St. Joseph School, 600 St. Joseph Place in Wenatchee.

On May 18, the series will conclude with the same presentations at the St. Paul School building, 1214 West Chestnut Avenue in Yakima.

All talks will be presented between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Students for Life To Meet

Two Students for Life groups plan May meetings.

The Gregory Sherman Chapter has scheduled a meeting for 7 p.m., Monday, May 13, at North Town Coffee in Yakima.

The Edward and Catherine Carroll Chapter will meet at 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 14, at Round Table Pizza on Leslie Road in Richland.

All young people between age 13 and college age, and their parents, are welcome to attend. Students for Life educates youth on important life issues and encourages them to advocate for respect for life within their communities.

For more information, call (509) 985-6248.

Marriage Encounter Planned

Father John Rashford, S.J., who ministered at Yakima's St. Elizabeth Hospital for many years while in residence at St. Joseph Parish, will help to present a Marriage Encounter weekend, May 17-19 in Bellevue.

To enrich your marriage and help to improve communication, consider attending this event at Bellevue's Sheraton Hotel. Apply at www.wwme.org or call (206) 772-2344 for more information.

Registration Open for Youth Camp

The second annual Central Washington Catholic Youth Camp is scheduled for June 23 - 28 at Lazy F Camp near Ellensburg.

This is a quality, week-long summer camp for young people, including daily Mass and the Rosary, Stations of the Cross and Reconciliation, with priests, sisters and seminarians assisting. It will include daily faith talks plus songs, games, swimming, inner tubing, a climbing wall, zipline, and campfire every night.

The cost is \$450 per camper, with scholarships available. Register at <https://www.cwyc.org> and visit the Facebook page, "CWCYCclick," to check for more details and frequent updates. (C-L-I-C-K stands for Christ Lives in Catholic Kids.) For questions, contact Michael Drollman, director, at (509) 699-1235.

Sister Susan Madley Marks 50 Years of Religious Life

Congratulations to Sister Susan Madley, SVF, of Ellensburg who will celebrate 50 years of professed religious life (and her 80th birthday) in June.

Born and educated in England, Sister became a Catholic at age 16. She received her B.A. and M.A. degrees from London University, going on to teach in Catholic high schools and at the collegiate level.

She entered religious life at age 24 and taught throughout much of her formation. Sister came to the United States in 1966 to teach at Eastern Michigan University and to study at the University of Michigan for a doctorate in Psychology and Administration. Completing her degree, she became



Sister Susan Madley

Principal of Father Gabriel Richard High School in Ann Arbor Michigan and later Principal of Gilmour Academy in Ohio.

From 1990 to 2002, Sister Susan taught graduate students at Central Washington University (CWU) who were pursuing Principal Certification for public and private schools. Throughout her teaching and administrative years in the United States, she also was involved in Catholic Campus Ministry in various states.

Since her retirement from CWU, she serves as a contributing member of St. Andrew Parish in Ellensburg and the Diocese of Yakima.

We wish Sister Susan well in all of her future endeavors and thank her for her years of devoted service!

Edgar Quiroga Prepares For Ordination as a Deacon

Edgar Quiroga clearly remembers the day on which he received his call to the priesthood. It was April 2, 2005, the day that Pope John Paul II died.

Quiroga, then age 13, recalls thinking, "What does this man have that the whole world stops today? I want to be like him. I want to do what he's doing."

So, Quiroga told his parish priest in Tecalitlan, Mexico, "I want to be a pope. I want to be like him." The priest told Quiroga that he was too young to enter the seminary, that he must wait until he finished junior high. Then, in 2007, Quiroga received permission to enter the minor seminary in Colima City, Mexico.

Now, after 12 years of seminary and English-language training, Quiroga is set to be ordained a transitional deacon at 7 p.m., May 17, at Holy Family Church in Yakima.

"I can't wait," he said in a telephone interview from Mundelein Seminary near Chicago, Illinois. "This is a huge step toward priesthood. I feel so excited, so ready to serve the Church!"

It's been a long road for Quiroga to get to this milestone achievement: three years in the minor seminary; four years of philosophy and one year of theology, all in or near Colima City; one year of English-language classes at Central Washington University; and, on May 3, he'll complete three years of theology at Mundelein, with one more year to follow.

At first, "it seemed so far away," he said. "Now, it's, 'Where did all of this time go?'"

As he prepares for his ordination to the diaconate, which is designed to be

the final year before his ordination as a priest, Quiroga looks forward to seeing his parents plus his two brothers and their wives, all of whom will travel from Mexico. That day, he will wear a special vestment borrowed from the Diocese of Colima.

Edgar credits his mother, Nina Quiroga, with "playing a huge role" in his vocation. "She encouraged me to follow my dreams." He's also very grateful to Dr. Jon and Erin Shirey of Yakima who have provided "a second home" for him while he's been in the Valley. "They 'adopted' me as their own. ... That made my journey in this country easier, happier," he said.

When he finally becomes a priest, Quiroga says that he especially looks forward to celebrating the sacraments, including Reconciliation and the Eucharist. (He no longer wants to be pope.)

In Reconciliation, he will be able to "offer that grace, to say that God loves you, to be that instrument that God uses." And, as for the Eucharist, "it is the summit of all the sacraments... Christ present to the world," he reflects.

Please keep Edgar in your prayers as he prepares to serve the Diocese of Yakima!



Edgar Quiroga